

things worse. It would have increased the number of uninsured, it would have increased the price, it would have reduced the quality of the product, and it would have made it less likely that insurance companies would come in and offer anything at all.

If we are going to amend the Affordable Care Act, we ought to improve it. We ought to make things better. We should first do no harm with the Affordable Care Act, and we should not allow this administration to sabotage the Affordable Care Act. When they said it might implode, we have to be careful that they are not doing the implosion. There are things that this administration can do to undermine the Affordable Care Act and sabotage it, and we would hope that we should join in a bipartisan effort to make sure that that does not happen.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Michigan (Mr. MITCHELL) who is a member of our committee.

Mr. MITCHELL. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from North Carolina for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Self-Insurance Protection Act, of which I am a proud cosponsor. Restoring health care is more than one bill—our plan has always included a series of efforts to directly address the challenges facing our healthcare system. The challenges resulted from ObamaCare. This legislation is one such effort, part of a series of measures to increase choice and access. This bill would make it easier for families to get health insurance from their employers.

As my colleagues have noted, more than 160 million Americans get their insurance from an employer. Of that, 60 percent of employers offering healthcare coverage are self-insured, meaning employers directly reimburse healthcare providers and employees for medical expenses. These self-insured plans provide more flexibility than traditional healthcare plans, as they can be designed and operated to meet the unique needs of workers and families. For many years, the company I led, in fact, was self-insured, and we bought stop-loss coverage.

For most self-insured employers, choosing to buy stop-loss insurance simply assists them in avoiding catastrophic losses. It is a business insurance policy. Regulating it like a traditional healthcare insurance would restrict access to self-insured plans dramatically.

We should be making it easier, not harder, for employers to offer their employees comprehensive health packages, and it certainly should not be left to an unelected bureaucrat to decide which types of plans or which benefits work for American families.

This legislation is a simple, straightforward approach to protect self-insured healthcare plans. It offers clarity, reaffirming longstanding policies

recognizing that stop-loss insurance is a distinct business insurance and prevents bureaucrats from—one more time—tinkering with our economy and damaging health care.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation, as it is an important measure to promote and to increase access to health care.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, this bill prohibits Federal regulation of stop-loss insurance. The Federal Government does not regulate stop-loss insurance. It does not affect the States' ability to regulate the insurance, and that is where it should be done. So the bill does no harm. I would hope that, after this bill, we will refocus our efforts into addressing some of the challenges with the Affordable Care Act by first doing no harm, not going backwards like the bill did several days ago where the costs went up, the number of insurers went down, and the quality of the insurance was worse. We can improve healthcare coverage in this country, but we can't do it if the first step is a backward step.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, we all want workers and employers to have access to high-quality, affordable healthcare coverage, and that is exactly what this legislation is about.

Our Nation faces significant healthcare challenges. Costs are soaring, and choices are diminishing. This legislation will in no way address all of these challenges; however, it is one step we can take to protect access to affordable healthcare options for workers and employers.

Let's give workers and employers who rely on self-insured healthcare plans a little bit of certainty and peace of mind today by passing this common-sense legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I urge Members to vote in favor of the Self-Insurance Protection Act, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee). All time for debate has expired.

Pursuant to House Resolution 241, the previous question is ordered on the bill, as amended.

The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, and was read the third time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the bill.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

## RAISING A QUESTION OF THE PRIVILEGES OF THE HOUSE

Mr. JEFFRIES. Mr. Speaker, I rise to a question of the privileges of the House and offer a resolution previously noticed.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the resolution.

The Clerk read as follows:

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that President Donald Trump shall publicly disclose his tax return information, which would conform with an important tradition connected to occupancy of the White House, as well as uphold his promise to the American people that he would release his tax returns.

Whereas, every President since Gerald Ford has disclosed his tax return information to the American people;

Whereas, in May 2014 Donald Trump stated during a television interview: "If I decide to run for office I'll produce my tax returns absolutely. I would love to do that";

Whereas, in February 2015 Donald Trump stated during a radio interview: "I have no objection to certainly showing tax returns";

Whereas, in February 2016 Donald Trump stated during a televised Republican Presidential debate: "I will absolutely give my returns, but I'm being audited now for two or three years, so I can't do it until the audit is finished, obviously";

Whereas, in May 2016 Donald Trump stated during a television interview: "I will really gladly give them. When the audit ends, I'll present them. That should be before the election";

Whereas, the IRS has made clear that any taxpayer, including Donald Trump, may release his tax returns at any time while under audit;

Whereas, the House of Representatives by constitutional design is the institution closest to the American people, and an overwhelming majority of the American people think Donald Trump should release his tax returns immediately;

Whereas, 17 different intelligence agencies in the United States have concluded that Vladimir Putin and his Russian regime interfered with our Presidential election for the purpose of helping Donald Trump;

Whereas, multiple high-level Trump associates were in regular contact with Russian operatives and intelligence agents during the same time that Russia was hacking into our democracy;

Whereas, multiple high-level Trump associates have financial ties to the Russian regime;

Whereas, Paul Manafort, Donald Trump's former campaign chairman, engineered a pro-Russian change in the Republican Party platform in July 2016 and has received millions of dollars from pro-Russian oligarchs to advance Putin's agenda;

Whereas, Michael Flynn, Donald Trump's first National Security Adviser, resigned in disgrace for misleading to Vice President Mike Pence about potentially unlawful phone calls to the Russian Ambassador and failed to disclose financial compensation received from a Russian propaganda media outlet closely tied to Vladimir Putin;

Whereas, Carter Page, a top foreign policy adviser to the Trump campaign, has now acknowledged visiting the Kremlin in the midst of the 2016 Presidential election;

Whereas, Jeff Sessions, Donald Trump's Attorney General, misled the Senate under oath by failing to disclose his meetings with the Russian Ambassador that took place in July 2016 at the Republican National Convention and again in September of 2016;

Whereas, Michael Cohen, Donald Trump's personal attorney, now acknowledges being

in contact with Russian operatives at the same time the attacks on our democracy were taking place;

Whereas, Jared Kushner, a senior White House advisor and Donald Trump's son-in-law, now acknowledges previously undisclosed meetings with the Russian Ambassador;

Whereas, Roger Stone, a self-described political trickster and Donald Trump's long-time consigliere, now acknowledges being in contact with the Russian-aligned hacker Guccifer II and predicted during the campaign that John Podesta's emails would soon be exposed;

Whereas, Ian Fleming, the renowned British author has observed, "Once is happenstance. Twice is coincidence. Three times is enemy action";

Whereas, Donald Trump has shown an unrestrained willingness to criticize and insult allies of the United States of America;

Whereas, Donald Trump wrongly accused Great Britain, our closest ally, of wiretapping Trump Tower in New York City;

Whereas, Donald Trump declined to shake German Chancellor Angela Merkel's hand while seated together during their recent joint appearance at the White House;

Whereas, Donald Trump stated in a recent C-PAC speech that "Paris is no longer Paris";

Whereas, Donald Trump threatened to cancel a refugee transfer agreement with our ally Australia and reportedly hung up on the Prime Minister;

Whereas, Donald Trump told the President of Mexico that America would deploy military personnel to that sovereign nation if our southern neighbor does not deal with its "bad hombres";

Whereas, Donald Trump has repeatedly criticized our strategic and military alliance with Western European allies and called NATO "obsolete";

Whereas, Donald Trump refuses to say a negative word about Vladimir Putin or his corrupt Russian regime;

Whereas, Bill O'Reilly interviewed Donald Trump on Super Bowl Sunday and asked about Putin's brutal and murderous regime;

Whereas, Donald Trump responded, "There are a lot of killers. You think our country's so innocent?"; suggesting a moral equivalence between the United States and Russia;

Whereas, Yogi Berra, the great Yankee catcher and philosopher-king, once observed "that's too coincidental to be a coincidence";

Whereas, Donald Trump tweeted on January 11: "I have nothing to do with Russia—no deals, no loans, no nothing";

Whereas, Donald Trump Jr. once stated: "Russians make up a pretty disproportionate cross-section of a lot of our assets. We see a lot of money pouring in from Russia";

Whereas, disclosure of Donald Trump's tax returns will help the American people and their elected Representatives in this House better understand Trump's financial ties, if any, to Putin's Russia;

Whereas, the American people have a right to know whether financial conflicts of interest exist between the President of the United States and a hostile foreign power;

Whereas, the chairmen of the House Ways and Means Committee, Joint Committee on Taxation, and Senate Finance Committee have the authority to request Donald Trump's tax returns under section 6103 of the Tax Code; and

Whereas, the FBI is conducting a criminal and counterintelligence investigation into Russian interference with the recent Presidential election, including possible collusion between the Trump campaign and the Kremlin: Now, therefore, be it:

*Resolved*, that the House of Representatives shall—

1. Immediately request tax return information of Donald J. Trump for tax years 2007 through 2016 for review in closed executive session by the Committee on Ways and Means, as provided under section 6103 of the Internal Revenue Code, and vote to report the information therein to the full House of Representatives; and

2. Postpone consideration of comprehensive tax reform legislation until after the elected Representatives of the American people in this House have been able to review Trump's tax returns and ascertain how any changes to the Tax Code might financially benefit the President of the United States.

□ 1515

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Does the gentleman from New York wish to present argument on the parliamentary question of whether the resolution presents a question of the privileges of the House?

Mr. JEFFRIES. Yes, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from New York is recognized.

Mr. JEFFRIES. Mr. Speaker, under rule IX, clause 1, questions of the privileges of the House are "those affecting the rights of the House collectively, its safety, dignity, and the integrity of its proceedings."

This resolution is privileged based on two issues of institutional integrity, both anchored in the United States Constitution.

Upon adoption of the Constitution, Senators were elected by State legislative bodies; justices were appointed by the executive branch; Presidents were placed into office indirectly through the electoral college.

The House was the only institution where Members were directly elected by the people. We were given 2-year terms to stay close to the people. Our integrity as a separate and coequal branch of government flows directly from our ability to vigilantly represent their interests.

We don't work for the executive branch. We don't work for President Trump. We work for the people of this great Nation, and the American people overwhelmingly want the President's tax returns released.

Secondarily, this House should exercise its prerogative as a separate and coequal branch of government, vigilantly represent the people, and act as a check and balance against Presidential obstruction. Our integrity hangs in the balance.

The integrity of this House also hinges, lastly, on our willingness to properly legislate changes to the Tax Code. The American people have, in many cases, lost faith in our institutions of government, in part because they believe that we are out of touch and that we do not act in the best interests of hardworking Americans.

Pursuant to Article I, section 7, clause 1 of the Constitution, often referred to as the Origination Clause, the House of Representatives has the sole authority to initiate legislation that raises revenue for the national government.

According to a 2011 Heritage Foundation report, the taxation power was in-

entionally placed with the body closest to the people as part of the Great Compromise. The Heritage Foundation report urges Members of this House to "be more zealous in protecting this exclusive prerogative."

President Trump has expressed an interest in working with the House to take on the most significant legislative reform of our Tax Code in 30 years. How can we work with him on this legislation if we do not know how the proposed reforms might financially benefit him or the companies or countries to which he has business entanglements?

How can we ascertain whether suggestions made by the executive branch are aimed to help the American people or aimed to help the President or his allies in business or throughout the world?

The Founders of this great Nation made it so that we, as representatives of the people, have the constitutional duty to check and balance the executive branch, not the other way around.

The integrity of this body is at risk if we choose to follow the path of unfettered obedience to the executive branch. The American people deserve to see his tax returns, and we have the power in this House to make it happen.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair is prepared to rule.

The gentleman from New York seeks to offer a resolution as a question of the privileges of the House under rule IX.

As the Chair most recently ruled on March 22, 2017, the resolution directs the Committee on Ways and Means to meet and consider an item of business under the procedures set forth in 26 U.S.C. 6103 and, therefore, does not qualify as a question of the privileges of the House.

Mr. JEFFRIES. Mr. Speaker, I appeal the ruling of the Chair.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is, Shall the decision of the Chair stand as the judgment of the House?

#### MOTION TO TABLE

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I have a motion at the desk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the motion.

The Clerk read as follows:

Ms. Foxx moves to lay the appeal on the table.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to table.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. JEFFRIES. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, this 15-minute vote on the motion to table will be followed by a 5-minute vote on passage of H.R. 1304.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 228, nays 185, answered "present" 2, not voting 14, as follows:

[Roll No. 219]

YEAS—228

Abraham Gosar Palazzo  
Aderholt Gowdy Palmer  
Allen Granger Paulsen  
Amash Graves (GA) Pearce  
Amodel Graves (LA) Perry  
Arrington Graves (MO) Pittenger  
Babin Griffith Poe (TX)  
Bacon Grothman Poliquin  
Banks (IN) Guthrie Posey  
Barletta Harper Ratcliffe  
Barr Harris Reed  
Barton Hartzler Reichert  
Bergman Hensarling Renacci  
Biggs Herrera Beutler Rice (SC)  
Bilirakis Hice, Jody B. Roby  
Bishop (MI) Higgins (LA) Roe (TN)  
Black Hill Rogers (AL)  
Blackburn Holding Rogers (KY)  
Blum Hollingsworth Rohrabacher  
Bost Hudson Rokita  
Brady (TX) Huizenga Rooney, Francis  
Brat Hultgren Hunter  
Brooks (AL) Hurd J.  
Brooks (IN) Hurd Ros-Lehtinen  
Buchanan Issa Roskam  
Buck Jenkins (KS) Ross  
Bucshon Jenkins (WV) Rothfus  
Budd Johnson (LA) Rouzer  
Burgess Johnson (OH) Royce (CA)  
Byrne Johnson, Sam Russell  
Calvert Jordan Rutherford  
Carter (GA) Joyce (OH) Scalise  
Carter (TX) Katko Kelly (MS) Schweikert  
Chabot Kelly (PA) Scott, Austin  
Chaffetz King (IA) Sensenbrenner  
Cheney Kinzinger Sessions  
Coffman Knight Shimkus  
Cole Kustoff (TN) Shuster  
Collins (NY) Labrador Simpson  
Comer LaHood Smith (MO)  
Comstock LaHood Smith (NE)  
Conaway Lamborn Smith (NJ)  
Cook Lance Smith (TX)  
Costello (PA) Latta Smucker  
Cramer Lewis (MN) Stefanik  
Crawford LoBiondo Stewart  
Culberson Long Stivers  
Curbelo (FL) Loudermilk Taylor  
Davidson Love Tenney  
Davis, Rodney Lucas Thompson (PA)  
Denham Luetkemeyer Thornberry  
Dent MacArthur  
DeSantis Marchant Tipton  
DesJarlais Marino Trott  
Diaz-Balart Marshall Turner  
Donovan Massie Upton  
Duffy Mast Valadao  
Duncan (SC) McCarthy Wagner  
Duncan (TN) McCaul Walberg  
Dunn McClintock Walden  
Emmer McHenry Walker  
Farenthold McKinley Walorski  
Faso McMorris Walters, Mimi  
Ferguson Rodgers Weber (TX)  
Fitzpatrick McSally Webster (FL)  
Fleischmann Meadows Webstrup  
Flores Meehan Westerman  
Fortenberry Messer Wilson (SC)  
Foxy Mitchell Wittman  
Franks (AZ) Moolenaar Womack  
Frelinghuysen Mooney (WV) Woodall  
Gaetz Mullin Yoder  
Gallagher Murphy (PA) Yoho  
Garrett Newhouse Young (AK)  
Gibbs Noem Young (IA)  
Gohmert Nunes Zeldin  
Goodlatte Olson

NAYS—185

Adams Capuano Cooper  
Aguilar Carbajal Correa  
Barragán Cárdenas Costa  
Bass Carson (IN) Courtney  
Bera Cartwright Crist  
Beyer Castor (FL) Crowley  
Bishop (GA) Castro (TX) Cuellar  
Blumenauer Chu, Judy Cummings  
Blunt Rochester Cicilline Davis (CA)  
Bonamici Clark (MA) DeGette  
Boyle, Brendan Clarke (NY) Delaney  
F. Clay DeLauro  
Brady (PA) Cleaver DelBene  
Brown (MD) Clyburn Demings  
Brownley (CA) Cohen DeSaulnier  
Bustos Connolly Deutch  
Butterfield Conyers Dingell

Doggett Ellison  
Doyle, Michael Engel  
F. Levin  
Larson (CT) Lewis (GA)  
Lawson (FL) Lieu, Ted  
Lee Lipinski  
Levin Loeb sack  
Lewis (GA) Lofgren  
Lieu, Ted Lowenthal  
Lipinski Loeb sack  
Loeb sack Lofgren  
Lofgren Lowenthal  
Foster Lowey  
Frankel (FL) Lujan Grisham,  
Fudge M.  
Gabbard Luján, Ben Ray  
Gallego Lynch  
Garamendi Maloney,  
Gonzalez (TX) Carolyn B.  
Gottheimer Maloney, Sean  
Green, Al Matsui  
Green, Gene McCollum  
Grijalva McGovern  
Gutiérrez McNerney  
Hanabusa Meeks  
Hastings Meng  
Heck Moore  
Higgins (NY) Moulton  
Himes Murphy (FL)  
Hoyer Nadler  
Huffman Napolitano  
Jackson Lee Neal  
Jayapal Nolan  
Jeffries Norcross  
Johnson (GA) O'Halleran  
Johnson, E. B. O'Rourke  
Jones Pallone  
Kaptur Panetta  
Keating Pascarell  
Kelly (IL) Payne  
Kennedy Pelosi  
Khanna Perlmutter  
Kihuen Peters  
Kilde Peterson  
Kilmer Pingree  
Kind Pocan  
Krishnamoorthi Polis  
Kuster (NH) Price (NC)  
Langevin Quigley  
Larsen (WA) Wilson (FL)

ANSWERED "PRESENT"—2

DeFazio Sanford

NOT VOTING—14

Beatty King (NY) Slaughter  
Bishop (UT) LaMalfa Velázquez  
Bridenstine Lawrence Williams  
Collins (GA) McEachin Yarmuth  
Davis, Danny Sánchez

□ 1545

Ms. MCCOLLUM, Messrs. WELCH, and QUIGLEY changed their vote from "yea" to "nay."

Messrs. JOHNSON of Louisiana, POSEY, DENT, SMUCKER, HUNTER, and RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois changed their vote from "nay" to "yea."

Mr. SANFORD changed his vote from "yea" to "present."

So the motion to table was agreed to. The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

### SELF-INSURANCE PROTECTION ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on passage of the bill (H.R. 1304) to amend the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, the Public Health Service Act, and the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude from the definition of health insurance coverage certain medical stop-loss insurance obtained by certain plan sponsors of group health plans on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the bill.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 400, nays 16, not voting 13, as follows:

[Roll No. 220]

YEAS—400

Abraham Culberson Hunter  
Adams Cummings Hurd  
Aderholt Curbelo (FL) Issa  
Aguilar Davidson Jackson Lee  
Allen Davis (CA) Jeffries  
Amash Davis, Rodney Jenkins (KS)  
Amodel DeFazio Jenkins (WV)  
Arrington DeGette Johnson (LA)  
Babin Delaney Johnson (OH)  
Bacon DeLauro Johnson, E. B.  
Banks (IN) DelBene Johnson, Sam  
Barletta Demings Jones  
Barr Denham Jordan  
Barragán Dent Joyce (OH)  
Barton DeSantis Katko  
Bass DesJarlais Keating  
Bera Deutch Kelly (IL)  
Bergman Diaz-Balart Kelly (MS)  
Beyer Dingell Kelly (PA)  
Biggs Doggett Kennedy  
Bilirakis Donovan Khanna  
Bishop (GA) Doyle, Michael Kihuen  
Bishop (MI) F. Kildee  
Black Duffy Kilmer  
Blackburn Duncan (SC) Kind  
Blum Duncan (TN) King (IA)  
Blumenauer Dunn Kinzinger  
Blunt Rochester Ellison Knight  
Bonamici Emmer Krishnamoorthi  
Bost Engel Kuster (NH)  
Boyle, Brendan Eshoo Kustoff (TN)  
F. Espallat Labrador  
Brady (PA) Esty LaHood  
Brady (TX) Farenthold LaMalfa  
Brat Faso Lamborn  
Brooks (AL) Ferguson Lance  
Brooks (IN) Fitzpatrick Langevin  
Brown (MD) Fleischmann Larsen (WA)  
Brownley (CA) Flores Larson (CT)  
Buchanan Fortenberry Latta  
Buck Foster Lawson (FL)  
Bucshon Foxx Levin  
Budd Frankel (FL) Lewis (MN)  
Burgess Franks (AZ) Lieu, Ted  
Bustos Frelinghuysen Lipinski  
Butterfield Fudge LoBiondo  
Byrne Gabbard Loeb sack  
Calvert Gaetz Lofgren  
Capuano Gallagher Long  
Carbajal Gallego Loudermilk  
Cárdenas Garamendi Love  
Carson (IN) Garrett Lowenthal  
Carter (GA) Gibbs Lowey  
Carter (TX) Gohmert Lucas  
Cartwright Gonzalez (TX) Luetkemeyer  
Castor (FL) Goodlatte Lujan Grisham,  
Castro (TX) Gosar M.  
Chabot Gottheimer Luján, Ben Ray  
Chaffetz Gowdy Lynch  
Cheney Granger MacArthur  
Chu, Judy Graves (GA) Maloney,  
Cicilline Graves (LA) Carolyn B.  
Clark (MA) Graves (MO) Maloney, Sean  
Clarke (NY) Green, Gene Marchant  
Clay Griffith Marino  
Cleaver Grothman Marshall  
Clyburn Guthrie Massie  
Coffman Gutiérrez Mast  
Cohen Hanabusa Matsui  
Cole Harper McCarthy  
Collins (GA) Harris McCaul  
Collins (NY) Hartzler McClintock  
Comer Hastings McCollum  
Comstock Heck McGovern  
Conaway Hensarling McHenry  
Connolly Herrera Beutler McKinley  
Cook Hice, Jody B. McMorris  
Cooper Higgins (LA) Rodgers  
Correa Higgins (NY) McNerney  
Costa Hill McSally  
Costello (PA) Himes Meadows  
Courtney Holding Meehan  
Cramer Hollingsworth Meeks  
Crawford Hoyer Meng  
Crist Hudson Messer  
Crowley Huizenga Mitchell  
Cuellar Hultgren Moolenaar